

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 271715Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7992

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: RC ANNOUNCES MOVE AGAINST CLANDESTINE GROUPS

1. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ISSUED A STATEMENT FOLLOWING ITS JULY 26 MEETING STATING THAT IT HAD EXAMINED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY "CLANDESTINE POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS" WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AND WOULD TAKE STEPS TO NEUTRALIZE THESE ACTIVITIES.

2. COMMENT: AN INDICATION OF THE POLITICAL LEANINGS OF THE CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATIONS THE RC HAD IN MIND CAME IN COMMENTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE MEETING BY COUNCIL SPOKESMAN CPT SOUSA E CASTRO. SOUSA E CASTRO ACKNOWLEDGED THE EXISTENCE OF THE "COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF LIBERTY" (CDL) WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS AN EXTREME RIGHT ORGANIZATION OPERATING WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES. THE CDL, HE SAID, SOUGHT TO TRANSFORM THE RC INTO A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TYPE OF ORGANIZATION -- "A GROUP OF PERSONS SIMILAR TO A COUNCIL OF STATE." ELABORATING ON
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THE SAME THEME IN A RECENT "OPCAO" INTERVIEW, SOUSA E CASTRO

NOTED THAT MANY DISPARATE ELEMENTS, INCLUDING THOSE ON THE EXTREME RIGHT, HAD PARTICIPATED IN PUTTING DOWN THE NOVEMBER 1975 COUP ATTEMPT. THESE ELEMENTS, HE ADDED, WERE NOW THE PRINCIPAL THREAT FROM WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES.

3. SOUSA E CASTRO'S COMMENTS AND THE RC STATEMENT ARE THE FIRST PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF HIGH-LEVEL CONCERN WITHIN THE MILITARY DUE TO CONTINUING ACTIVITIES BY CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES.
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